

USDA STATEMENT ON PEANUT BUTTER RECALL

March 6, 2009

The Texas Department of State Health Services issued a recall order on February 12, 2009 for all products from the Peanut Corporation of America (PCA) Plainview, TX plant based on violations of health standards and codes.

USDA-purchased peanut butter is affected by this action. On February 24th, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) notified the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) that commodities purchased from Sunland, Inc., containing peanut butter from peanuts roasted at PCA Plainview, were distributed to schools, household programs and a further processor in September and October, 2007 through the USDA nutrition assistance programs. On March 2nd, FNS was notified that product acquired from Sunland, Inc. through exchanges conducted by The Seam was made with peanuts that passed through the PCA Plainview plant. The Seam is a third party auction facility used by FSA to exchange surplus commodities for value added foods for use in domestic and international food assistance programs. The product was distributed to USDA household programs in July and August, 2008.

On February 25th and March 3rd USDA issued recall notices and is in the process of tracing all affected peanut products purchased from Sunland, Inc. Those States and/or schools who have contracts to further process USDA peanut butter into other value added foods may receive a letter from your processor. If the affected lots of peanut butter were used by the further processor to manufacture the other food items, the processor has been instructed to contact you. USDA is not a party to those contracts and does not have information about those customers and destinations.

Additional information on the PCA investigation and recall is available on these FDA links:

<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/peanutbutterrecall/index.cfm> and
<http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/salmonellatyph.html>.